

THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

At the request of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Quality Forum (NQF) has initiated a project to endorse national voluntary consensus standards for ambulatory care that will permit standardization of measurement and reporting of quality of care in physicians' offices. The initial set under consideration, presented in the tables that follow, is part of a CMS-American Medical Association's Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement-National Committee for Quality Assurance effort.

With the exception of some diabetes measures, these measures have *not* been endorsed by NQF.* They are *proposed* consensus standards that will be reviewed by NQF Members and the public, voted upon by NQF Members, and endorsed, in whole or part, by the NQF Board of Directors in Spring 2005, pursuant to the NQF's Consensus Development Process. As part of this process, the detailed specifications for each measure will be considered and made available at the appropriate phase in the process.

*In 2002, NQF endorsed *National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Adult Diabetes Care*, containing a set of outpatient performance measures. NQF will be updating this measure set in 2005 through a separate process from the other ambulatory care measures, since the diabetes measure set has previously been reviewed and endorsed by NQF. The full set of ambulatory care measures will include the updated diabetes measures.

AMBULATORY CARE MEASURES PROPOSED FOR ENDORSEMENT BY NQF

AMA and NCQA Notice of Use. Broad public use and dissemination of these measures is encouraged and the measure developers have agreed with NQF that noncommercial uses do not require the consent of the measure developer. Use by health care providers in connection with their own practices is not a commercial use. Commercial use of a measure does require the prior written consent of the measure developer and commercial uses may be subject to a license agreement at the discretion of the measure developer. As used herein, a "commercial use" refers to any sale, license, or distribution of a measure for commercial gain, or incorporation of a measure into any product or service that is sold, licensed, or distributed for commercial gain, (even if there is no actual charge for inclusion of the measure).

ASTHMA/RESPIRATORY ILLNESS			
TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
Asthma Assessment	Percentage of patients who were evaluated during at least one office visit for the frequency (numeric) of daytime and nocturnal asthma symptoms	AMA PCPI*	QI
Asthma: Pharmacologic Therapy	Percentage of patients who were identified as having persistent asthma during the year prior to the measurement year and who were prescribed either an inhaled corticosteroid or acceptable alternative medication during the measurement year	NCQA [#]	A
Asthma: Pharmacologic Therapy	Percentage of all patients with mild, moderate, or severe persistent asthma who were prescribed either the preferred long-term control medication (inhaled corticosteroid) or an acceptable alternative treatment	AMA PCPI*	QI
Asthma: Pharmacologic Therapy	Distribution of long-term control therapy by category of medication, severity classification, and age range	AMA PCPI*	QI
Appropriate Treatment for Children with Upper Respiratory Infection	Percentage of patients who were given a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) and were not dispensed an antibiotic prescription on or 3 days after the episode date	NCQA [#]	A
Appropriate Testing for Children with Pharyngitis	Percentage of patients who were diagnosed with pharyngitis, prescribed an antibiotic and who received a group A streptococcus test for the episode	NCQA [#]	A

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AMBULATORY CARE MEASURES PROPOSED FOR ENDORSEMENT BY NQF

DEPRESSION / BEHAVIORAL HEALTH			
TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
Screening for Depression and Follow-up	Percentage of patients who were screened annually for depression in primary care setting	VHA	QI
Screening for Depression and Follow-up	Percentage of patients with a positive screen for depression with a follow-up assessment or referral	VHA	QI
Continuation of Antidepressant Medication	Percentage of patients with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) who were continued on medication for a minimum of 16 weeks following remission of symptoms	AMA PCPI*	QI
Optimal Practitioner Contacts for Medication Management	Percentage of patients who were diagnosed with a new episode of depression and treated with antidepressant medication and had at least three follow-up contacts with a primary care practitioner or mental health practitioner coded with a mental health diagnosis during the 84-day (12 week) Acute Treatment Phase	NCQA [#]	A
Effective Acute Phase Treatment	Percentage of patients who were diagnosed with a new episode of depression and treated with antidepressant medication and remained on an antidepressant drug during the entire 84-day (12-week) Acute Treatment Phase	NCQA [#]	A
Effective Continuation Phase Treatment	Percentage of patients who were diagnosed with a new episode of depression and treated with antidepressant medication and remained on an antidepressant for at least 180 days (6 months)	NCQA [#]	A
Follow-up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness	The percentage of discharges for patients who were hospitalized for treatment of selected mental health disorders, who were seen on an ambulatory basis or who were in day/night treatment with a mental health provider within 30 days and 7 days	NCQA [#]	A
Diagnostic Evaluation	Percentage of patients whose depressive symptoms were adequately assessed for the presence of MDD during the initial visit	AMA PCPI*	QI
Suicide Risk Assessment	Percentage of patients with MDD who had a suicide risk assessment completed at each visit	AMA PCPI*	QI
Severity Classification	Percentage of patients whose severity of MDD was classified at the initial visit	AMA PCPI*	QI
Treatment: Psychotherapy,	Percentage of patients with MDD who received therapy appropriate to their	AMA PCPI*	QI

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DEPRESSION / BEHAVIORAL HEALTH			
TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
Medication Management, and/or Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)	classification		

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BONE CONDITIONS			
TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
Osteoporosis Management in Women Who had a Fracture	Percentage of women who suffered a fracture, and who had either a bone mineral density (BMD) test or prescription for a drug to treat or prevent osteoporosis in the 6 months after date of fracture	NCQA [#]	A
Osteoarthritis: Assessment for use of Anti-inflammatory or Analgesic OTC conditions	Percentage of patient visits with an assessment for use of anti-inflammatory or analgesic over the counter (OTC) medications	AAOS/AMA PCPI*	QI
Osteoarthritis: Gastrointestinal (GI) Prophylaxis	Percentage of patients on prescribed or OTC non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) who were assessed for presence of GI complications and if risk factors were present, medications to reduce the risk of serious GI complications are considered	AAOS/AMA PCPI*	QI
Osteoarthritis: Functional and Pain Assessment	Percentage of patients diagnosed with symptomatic osteoarthritis who were assessed for function and pain annually	AAOS/AMA PCPI*	QI
Osteoarthritis: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory Drug (NSAID) Risk Assessment	Percentage of patients on prescribed or OTC NSAIDs who were assessed for GI/renal risk factors	AAOS/AMA PCPI*	QI
Osteoarthritis: Physical Examination of the Involved Joint	Percentage of patients for whom a physical examination of the involved joint was performed during the initial visit	AAOS/AMA PCPI*	QI
Osteoarthritis: Anti-Inflammatory/ Analgesic Therapy	Percentage of patient visits during which an anti-inflammatory agent or analgesic was considered	AAOS/AMA PCPI*	QI
Osteoarthritis: Therapeutic Exercise	Percentage of patient visits during which therapeutic exercise for the involved joint was considered	AAOS/AMA PCPI*	QI

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AMBULATORY CARE MEASURES PROPOSED FOR ENDORSEMENT BY NQF

DIABETES (see note on page 1 re: diabetes measures)

TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
A1c Management (Screen)	Percentage of patients receiving one or more A1c test(s)	NCQA [#]	A
A1c Management (Screen)	Percentage of patients who received one or more A1c test(s)	AMA*	QI
A1c Management (Screen)	Distribution of number of tests done (0, 1, 2, 3 or more)	AMA*	QI
A1c Management (Control)	Percentage of patients with most recent A1c level > 9.0% (poor control)	NCQA [#]	A
A1c Management (Control)	Distribution of most recent A1c value by range: < 6.0, 6.1-7.0, 7.1-8.0, 8.1-9.0, 9.1-10.0, > 10.0, undocumented	AMA*	QI
Blood Pressure Mgt	Percentage of patients with most recent BP < 140/90 mm Hg	NCQA [#]	A
Blood Pressure Management	Distribution of most recent blood pressure values by range (mm Hg): Systolic: < 120, 120-129, 130-139, 140-149, 150-159, 160-169, 170-179, > 180, undocumented Diastolic: < 75, 75-79, 80-89, 90-99, 100-109, > 110, undocumented	AMA*	QI
Lipid Management	Percentage of patients with at least one Low Density Lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) test	NCQA [#]	A
Lipid Management	Percentage of patients who received at least one lipid profile (or ALL component tests)	AMA*	QI
LDL Cholesterol Level (<130mg/dL)	Percentage of patients with most recent LDL-C < 130	NCQA [#]	A
LDL Cholesterol Level (<130mg/dL)	Distribution of most recent test values by range: Total cholesterol: > 240, 200-239, < 200, undocumented; LDL-C: > 160, 130-159, 100-129, < 100, undocumented; HDL-C: < 40, 40-49, 50-59, > 60, undocumented; If Non-HDL cholesterol is reported, record the test values in the following ranges: ≥ 190, 160-189, 130-159, < 130, undocumented; Triglycerides: > 400, 200-399, < 200, 150-199, < 150, undocumented	AMA*	QI

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DIABETES (see note on page 1 re: diabetes measures)			
TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
Other: LDL Cholesterol Level (<100mg/dL)	The percentage of patients with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) with most recent LDL-C < 100mg/dL	NCQA [#]	A
Urine Protein Screening	Percentage of patients with at least one test for microalbumin during the measurement year; or who had evidence of medical attention for existing nephropathy (diagnosis of nephropathy or documentation of microalbuminuria or albuminuria)	NCQA [#]	A
Urine Protein Screening	Percentage of patients who received any test for microalbuminuria	AMA*	QI
Urine Protein Screening	Percentage of patients with no urinalysis OR urinalysis with negative or trace urine protein, who received a test for microalbumin	AMA*	QI
Eye Examination	Percentage of patients who received a dilated eye exam or seven standard field stereoscopic photos with interpretation by an ophthalmologist or optometrist or imaging validated to match diagnosis from these photos during the reporting year, or during the prior year, if patient is at low risk* for retinopathy. A patient is considered low risk if all three of the following criteria are met: (1) the patient is not taking insulin; (2) has an A1c < 8.0%; and (3) has no evidence of retinopathy in the prior year.	NCQA [#]	A
Eye Examination	Percentage of patients receiving a dilated retinal eye exam by an ophthalmologist or optometrist	AMA*	QI
Eye Examination	Percentage of patients receiving seven standard field stereoscopic photos with interpretation by an ophthalmologist or optometrist or imaging validated to match diagnosis from these photos	AMA*	QI
Foot Examination	Percentage of eligible patients receiving at least one foot exam, defined in any manner	NCQA [#]	A

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DIABETES (see note on page 1 re: diabetes measures)

TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
Foot Examination	Percentage of eligible patients who received at least one complete foot exam (visual inspection, sensory exam with monofilament, and pulse exam)	AMA*	QI
Smoking Cessation	Percentage of patients whose smoking status was ascertained and documented annually	NCQA [#]	A
Smoking Cessation	Percentage of patients who were assessed for smoking status	AMA*	QI
Smoking Cessation	Percentage of patients who are smokers	AMA*	QI
Smoking Cessation	Percentage of smokers who were recommended or offered an intervention for smoking cessation (ie counseling or pharmacologic therapy)	AMA*	QI
Aspirin Use	Percentage of patients receiving aspirin therapy (dose \geq 75mg)	AMA*	QI
Influenza Immunization	Percentage of patients who received an influenza immunization during the recommended calendar period	AMA*	QI
Influenza Immunization	Percentage of eligible patients who received an immunization or refused immunization during the calendar period	AMA*	QI
Pregnancy Counseling	Percentage of women of child-bearing potential who received pre-pregnancy counseling with respect to diabetes care in preventing complications in the last two years	AMA*	QI
Pregnancy Counseling	Percentage of women of child-bearing potential who were counseled on family planning or are receiving contraception in the last two years	AMA*	QI

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HEART DISEASE			
TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
Coronary Artery Disease (CAD): Antiplatelet Therapy	Percentage of patients who were prescribed antiplatelet therapy	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
CAD: Drug Therapy for Lowering LDL Cholesterol	Percentage of patients who were prescribed a lipid – lowering therapy (based on current ATP III guidelines)	CMS/AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
CAD: Beta-Blocker Therapy-Prior MI	Percentage of patients with prior MI who were prescribed beta-blocker therapy	NCQA [#]	A
CAD: Beta-Blocker Therapy-Prior MI	Percentage of patients with prior MI who were prescribed beta-blocker therapy	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
CAD: Blood Pressure Measurement	Percentage of patients who had a blood pressure measurement during the last office visit	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	V
CAD: Blood Pressure Measurement	Percentage of patients with last blood pressure measurement: < 140/90 mm Hg	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
CAD: Blood Pressure Measurement	Distribution of most recent blood pressure values by range (mm Hg):Systolic: < 120, 120-129, 130-139, 140-149, 150-159, 160-169, 170-179, > 180, undocumented Diastolic: < 75, 75-79, 80-89, 90-99, 100-109, > 110, undocumented	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
CAD: Lipid Profile	Percentage of patients receiving at least one LDL-C screening	NCQA [#]	A
CAD: Lipid Profile	Percentage of patients who received at least one lipid profile (or ALL component tests)	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
CAD: Lipid Profile	Distribution of percentage of patients with the most recent test results in the following ranges: Total cholesterol: > 240, 200-239, < 200, undocumented LDL-C: > 160, 130-159, 100-129, < 100, undocumented HDL-C: < 40, 40-49, 50-59, > 60, undocumented; Triglycerides: ≥ 400, 200-399, < 200, 150-199, < 150, undocumented	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI

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HEART DISEASE			
TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
CAD: LDL Cholesterol Level	Percentage of patients with LDL-C test results < 130mg/dL and < 100mg/dL	NCQA [#]	A
CAD: LDL Cholesterol Level	Percentage of patients with most recent LDL cholesterol < 130 mg/dl	CMS	QI
CAD: ACE Inhibitor Therapy	Percentage of patients who also have diabetes and/or LVSD who were prescribed ACE inhibitor therapy	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
CAD: Symptoms and Activity Assessment	Percentage of patients who were evaluated for both level of activity and anginal symptoms during one or more office visits	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
CAD: Smoking Cessation	Percentage of patients who were queried one or more times about cigarette smoking	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
CAD: Smoking Cessation	Percentage of patients identified as cigarette smokers who received smoking cessation intervention	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
Heart Failure (HF): LVF Assessment	Percentage of patients with quantitative or qualitative results of LVF assessment recorded	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
HF: Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction Testing	Percentage of patients who have left ventricular ejection fraction testing during the current year for patients hospitalized with a principal diagnosis of HF during the current year	CMS	QI
HF: Weight Measurement	Percentage of patient visits with weight measurement recorded	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
HF: Blood Pressure Measurement	Percentage of patient visits with blood pressure (BP) measurement recorded	AMA PCPI/ACC/AHA	QI
HF: Blood Pressure Measurement	Distribution of most recent systolic and diastolic blood pressure values by range (mm Hg):Systolic: < 120, 120-129, 130-139, 140-149, 150-159, 160-169, 170-179, > 180, undocumented Diastolic: < 75, 75-79, 80-89, 90-99, 100-109, > 110, undocumented	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI

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HF: Patient Education	Percentage of patients who were provided with patient education on disease management and health behavior changes during one or more visit(s) within a six-month period	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
HF: Beta Blocker Therapy	Percentage of patients who also have LVSD who were prescribed beta-blocker therapy	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
HF: Ace Inhibitor Therapy	Percentage of patients who also have LVSD who were prescribed ACE inhibitor therapy	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
HF: Warfarin Therapy for Patients with Atrial Fibrillation	Percentage of patients who also have paroxysmal or chronic atrial fibrillation who were prescribed warfarin therapy	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
HF: Assessment of Clinical Symptoms of Volume Overload	Percentage of patient visits with assessment of clinical symptoms of volume overload (excess)	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
HF: Assessment of Activity Level	Percentage of patient visits with assessment of activity level	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
HF: Assessment of Clinical Signs of Volume Overload (Excess)	Percentage of patient visits with assessment of clinical signs of volume overload (excess)	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
HF: Examination of the Heart	Percentage of patient visits with examination of the heart	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
HF: Laboratory Tests	Percentage of patients for whom initial laboratory testing was performed	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI

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AMBULATORY CARE MEASURES PROPOSED FOR ENDORSEMENT BY NQF

HYPERTENSION			
TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
Blood Pressure Measurement	Percentage of patient visits with blood pressure (BP) measurement recorded	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
Blood Pressure Measurement	Distribution of most recent systolic and diastolic BP values by range (mm Hg): Systolic: < 120, 120-129, 130-139, 140-149, 150-159, 160-169, 170-179, > 180, undocumented' Diastolic: < 75, 75-79, 80-89, 90-99, 100-109, > 110, undocumented	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI
Blood Pressure Control	Percentage of patients with last BP \leq 140/90 mm Hg	NCQA [#]	A
Blood Pressure Control	Percentage of patients with last BP < 140/90 mm Hg	NCQA [#]	QI
Plan of Care	Percentage of patient visits during which either systolic blood pressure > 140 mm Hg or diastolic blood pressure > 90 mm Hg, with documented plan of care for hypertension	AMA PCPI/* ACC/AHA	QI

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AMBULATORY CARE MEASURES PROPOSED FOR ENDORSEMENT BY NQF

PRENATAL CARE			
TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
Prenatal Flow Sheet	Percentage of patients with a flow sheet in use by the date of the first physician visit, which contains at a minimum: blood pressure, weight, urine protein, uterine size, fetal heart tones, and estimated date of delivery	AMA PCPI*	QI
Blood Groups (ABO, D(Rh) Type, and Antibody Testing	Percentage of patients who had a determination of blood group (ABO) and D (Rh) type by the second prenatal care visit	AMA PCPI*	QI
Blood Groups (ABO, D(Rh) Type, and Antibody Testing	Percentage of patients who received antibody screening during the first or second prenatal care visit	AMA PCPI*	QI
Anti-D Immune Globulin	Percentage of D (Rh) negative, unsensitized patients who received anti-D immune globulin at 26-30 weeks gestation	AMA PCPI*	QI
Screening for Congenital Anomalies	Percentage of patients less than 35 years of age at the time of expected delivery who were offered testing for congenital anomalies	AMA PCPI*	QI
Screening for Congenital Anomalies	Percentage of patients aged 35 years and older at the time of expected delivery who were offered amniocenteses or chorionic villus sampling	AMA PCPI*	QI
Screening for Gestational Diabetes	Percentage of patients who had glucose challenge test or oral glucose tolerance test performed	AMA PCPI*	QI
Cervical Cytology	Percentage of patients who had a cervical cytology smear performed during the preceding year or by the second prenatal care visit	AMA PCPI*	QI
Screening for Human Immunodeficiency Virus	Percentage of patients who were screened for HIV infection during the first or second prenatal care visit	AMA PCPI*	QI
Screening for Asymptomatic Bacteriuria	Percentage of patients who were at least one test to screen for asymptomatic bacteriuria	AMA PCPI*	QI

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AMBULATORY CARE MEASURES PROPOSED FOR ENDORSEMENT BY NQF

PREVENTION, IMMUNIZATION AND SCREENING			
TOPIC	MEASURE	IP OWNER	USE
Tobacco Use	Percentage of patients who were queried about tobacco use one or more times during the two-year measurement period	AMA PCPI*	QI
Tobacco Cessation	Percentage of patients identified as tobacco users who received cessation intervention during the two-year measurement period	AMA PCPI*	QI
Advising Smokers to Quit	Percentage of patients who received advise to quit smoking	NCQA [#]	A
Discussing Smoking Cessation Medication	Percentage of patients whose practitioner recommended or discussed smoking cessation medications	NCQA [#]	A
Discussing Smoking Strategies	Percentage of patients whose practitioner recommended or discussed smoking cessation methods or strategies	NCQA [#]	A
Problem Drinking	Percentage of patients who were queried about and screened for problem drinking during the two-year measurement period	AMA PCPI*	QI
Discussing Urinary Incontinence	Percentage patients who reported having a problem with urine leakage in the last six months and who discussed their urine leakage problem with their current practitioner	NCQA [#]	A
Receiving Urinary Incontinence Treatment	Percentage of patients who reported having a problem with urine leakage in the last six months and discussed it with their current practitioner and who received treatment for their current urine leakage problem	NCQA [#]	A
Influenza Vaccination	Percentage of patients who received an influenza vaccination	CMS/NCQA [#]	A
Influenza Vaccination	Percentage of patients who received an influenza vaccination	AMA PCPI*	QI
Pneumonia Vaccination	Percentage of patients who ever receive a pneumococcal vaccine	NCQA [#]	A
Pneumonia Vaccination	Percentage of patients who ever received a pneumococcal vaccination	AMA PCPI	QI

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AMBULATORY CARE MEASURES PROPOSED FOR ENDORSEMENT BY NQF

Childhood Immunization Status	Percentage of patients who turned 2 years old during the measurement year who had four DTaP/DT, three IPV, one MMR, three H influenza type B, three hepatitis B and one chicken pox vaccine (VZV) by the time period specified and by the child's second birthday	NCQA [#]	A
Adolescent Immunization Status	Percentage of patients who turned 13 years old during the measurement year who had a second dose of MMR, three hepatitis B and one VZV by the patient's 13th birthday	NCQA [#]	A
Breast Cancer Screening	Percentage of women who had a mammogram during the measurement year or year prior to the measurement year	CMS/NCQA [#]	A
Breast Cancer Screening	Percentage of women who had a mammogram performed during the measurement year or year prior to the measurement year	AMA PCPI*	QI
Colorectal Cancer Screening	Percentage of patients who had appropriate screening for colorectal cancer	NCQA [#]	A
Colorectal Cancer Screening	Percentage of patients screened for colorectal cancer	AMA PCPI*	QI
Cervical Cancer Screening	Percentage of women who received one or more Pap tests during the measurement year or the two years prior to the measurement year.	NCQA [#]	A
Chlamydia Screening in Women	Percentage of women who were identified as sexually active who had at least one test for chlamydia during the measurement year	NCQA [#]	A

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